
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Rm. 103
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Date: August 2, 2012
Time: 3:45 p.m.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the opening of the Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fishery, during the times and in the areas listed below, beginning on Sunday, **August 5, 2012**.

Section 1-B: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 5, through 12:00 noon, Thursday, August 9**, with the following restriction:

Pearse and Portland Canals: will be closed north of the latitude of Akeku Point located at the southern entrance of Edwards Passage.

District 6: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 5, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 8**, with the following restrictions:

Section 6-D: **will be closed;**

Salmon Bay: will be closed west of a line from Point Colpoys to Rookery Island Light to the westernmost tip of Fire Island to a point on Prince of Wales Island at the latitude of the westernmost tip of Fire Island.

District 8: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 5, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 8**, with the following restrictions:

Stikine River: waters off the Stikine River will be closed north and west of a line from Babbler Point to Hour Point along the shore of Wrangell Island to Point Highfield to the southern end of Liesnoi Island to the southern end of Greys Island to the small island near the eastern entrance of Blind Slough to the nearest point of Mitkof Island, and south and east of a line from the prominent point of Mitkof Island nearest Coney Island to the northern end of Coney Island to a point 500 yards north of Jap Creek on the mainland shore;

Beacon Point/Point Frederick Area: waters of Frederick Sound will be closed west of a line from the District 10 boundary one nautical mile off the Kupreanof Island shoreline to Sukoi Island Light to Point Frederick;

Kunk Creek: waters of Kunk Creek will be closed west of a line extending due south from a point on Etolin Island at 56°17.82' N. latitude, 132°22.98' W. longitude, to the District 7/8 boundary line in Zimovia Strait.

Section 11-B: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 5, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 8**, with the following restrictions:

Port Snettisham: waters of Port Snettisham will be closed east of a line from Point Styleman to Point Anmer;

Limestone Inlet: will be closed east of a line from a point on the north shore at 58°02.09' N. latitude, 133°58.87' W. longitude, to a point on the south shore at 58°01.92' N. latitude, 133°58.87' W. longitude (inside markers);

Section 11-C: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 5, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 8**.

Section 15-A: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 5, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 8**, in the waters of Lynn Canal south of the latitude of Seduction Point and in the waters of Chilkoot Inlet south of the **terminus of the Chilkoot River**.

Section 15-C: will be open from **12:01 p.m., Sunday, August 5, through 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 8, with the following restriction**:

Endicott River: Section 15-C will be closed within two nautical miles of the western shoreline of Lynn Canal from the latitude of Danger Point at 58°41.73' N. latitude north to a point within two nautical miles of the western shoreline of Lynn Canal at the latitude of Point Sherman.

Section 15-C: waters of the Boat Harbor Terminal Harvest Area (THA) will be open until further notice within two nautical miles of the western shoreline of Lynn Canal from the latitude of Danger Point at 58°41.73' N. latitude, south to a point 2.4 nautical miles north of Point Whidbey at 58°36.96' N. latitude.

Fishermen are reminded that 5 AAC 39.290(a) prohibits fishing for salmon within 500 yards of any salmon stream or river, or over beds and channels of streams and rivers, at all stages of the tide. This regulation applies to both Pat Creek and McCormack Creek in Zimovia Strait in the waters of District 8.

Fishermen are advised that the Department has begun receiving Speel Lake sockeye salmon weir counts from Douglas Island Pink and Chum Salmon Inc. These counts will be closely monitored and will determine when extended fishing time will be granted in Speel Arm. The Department will provide a minimum of 6 hours notice before extending openings in Speel Arm north of Sharp Point to target Snettisham Hatchery sockeye salmon.

King salmon less than 28" that are harvested in the commercial drift gillnet fisheries may be retained and sold. King salmon less than 28" in length, and those of Alaska hatchery origin, will not be counted against the Alaskan allocation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty harvest. The department is discontinuing the use of species code 411 beginning in 2012 to account for small king salmon in drift gillnet fisheries and instead will rely on ADF&G port sampling programs for that purpose. For drift gillnet fisheries, only species code 410 should be used to report king salmon of all sizes. Fish and Game samplers working at the processing facilities will also identify hatchery-reared king salmon so those fish are not counted against the Alaskan share of the harvest.

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1S5712.

Southeast Alaska Drift Gillnet Harvest Estimates
Statistical Week 31 (July 29 through August 4)
Preliminary Estimates Compiled August 2, 2012

District	NUMBER OF SALMON						Days	
	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total	Boats	Open
Section 1-B	40	4,500	1,700	38,000	33,000	77,240	38	5
District 6	10	2,500	6,000	14,000	6,000	28,510	40	3
District 8	30	700	800	2,500	42,000	46,030	75	3
District 11	25	17,000	1,000	58,000	42,500	118,525	80	3
District 15	221	37,900	123	46,700	41,600	126,544	100	5
Deep Inlet THA	60	15	30	3,000	7,500	10,605	11	3
Total	386	62,615	9,653	162,200	172,600	407,454		

District	FISH PER BOAT FOR THE PERIOD					
	King	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
Section 1-B	1	118	45	1,000	868	2,033
District 6	0	63	150	350	150	713
District 8	0	9	11	33	560	614
District 11	0	213	13	725	531	1,482
District 15	2	379	1	467	416	1,265
Deep Inlet THA	5	1	3	273	682	964

District 15: Harvest numbers are for 3 days of fishing.

Anita Bay THA: 3,500 kings and 70,000 chums harvested to date.

Nakat Inlet THA: 360,000 chums harvested to date.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

Office	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Wrangell	Sitka	Juneau	Haines	Hoonah	Yakutat
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Gillnet Hotline	225-6870	772-3700			465-8905	766-2830		